



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Public Instruction**  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

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## **Cedarburg and Madison students named Presidential Scholars**

MADISON—Two students from Wisconsin—Tara R. Skebba of Cedarburg and Dylan B. Mathieu of Madison—are among 141 students who will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion as part of four days of recognition events in Washington, D.C., in June.

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster noted that Presidential Scholars are chosen on the basis of their academic accomplishments as well as their leadership, character, and civic contributions. “It is exceptionally important that our students gain academic, civic, and social skills while in school that will help them succeed in the future. Wisconsin’s two Presidential Scholars are representative of the many excellent students who will graduate from our high schools this spring,” she said.

Students chosen as Presidential Scholars were among 2,700 candidates who qualified on the basis of outstanding performance on the ACT or SAT college admissions tests or nomination through the annual Arts Recognition and Talent Search, conducted by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Scholars named a teacher who was most inspirational to them as part of the application process that included essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of leadership, community service, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

Skebba, a senior at the University School of Milwaukee, named Joy C. Schultz of West Bend, and Mathieu, a senior at West High School in Madison, named Don Vincent of Madison, as their most inspirational teachers. The teachers will join the two scholars June 25-28 in Washington, D.C., for educational seminars, meetings with representatives of the three branches of government, community service activities, and an art exhibit and public performance featuring Presidential Scholars in the Arts. The teachers also receive a Teacher Recognition Award from the U.S. Department of Education.

Skebba and Mathieu are among 13 semifinalists from Wisconsin who will be recognized at a June 1 reception at the executive residence. The other Wisconsin Presidential Scholar semifinalists are Richard A. Evers, Homestead High School, Mequon; Brian J. Holoyda, Memorial High School, Madison;

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Andrew L. Ji, Memorial High School, Madison; Kendra D. Johnson, West High School, Madison; Jenan J. Kharbush, Memorial High School, Madison; Mahalia K. Miller, Stevens Point Area Senior High School; Jens J. Notstad, Cambridge Senior High School; Marcos U. Ortega, East High School, Wauwatosa; Rene M. Sczygelski, West High School, Wausau; Suchita R. Shah, Holmen High School; and Judith D. Wacker, West High School, Madison. The 28-member Commission on Presidential Scholars made the final selection of Presidential Scholars from a pool of 500 semifinalists.

The Presidential Scholars program was established in 1964 to honor academic achievement and was expanded in 1997 to recognize students who demonstrated exceptional talent in the visual, literary, and performing arts.

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